

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

DATE: February 1, 2007

CALLED TO ORDER: 5:00 p.m.

ADJOURNED: 5:40 p.m.

ATTENDANCE

Attending Members

Vernon Brown, Chair
Bob Cockrum
Susie Day
Ron Gibson
Dane Mahern
William Oliver
Earl Salisbury

Absent Members

Monroe Gray, Jr.

PROPOSAL NO. 65, 2007 - reappoints Rick Cockrum to the Board of Parks and Recreation

"Do Pass"

Vote: 6-0

PROPOSAL NO. 92, 2007 - appoints Devonne L. Richburg-Pollard to the Board of Parks and Recreation

"Do Pass"

Vote: 6-0

Joe Wynns, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation – Committee Review

PROPOSAL NO. 66, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$28,238 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks General Fund) to support after school activities at Charity Dye School 27, financed by a grant from the United Way of Central Indiana

"Do Pass"

Vote: 7-0

PROPOSAL NO. 67, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$48,682 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks General Fund) to fund salary, benefits and supplies for a School Community Development Manager for two schools in the Martindale-Brightwood Neighborhood: Hazel Hart Hendricks School 37 and James Russell Lowell School 51, financed by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

"Do Pass as Amended"

Vote: 7-0

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMITTEE

The Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council met on Thursday, February 1, 2007. Chair Vernon Brown called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. with the following members present: Bob Cockrum, Susie Day, Ron Gibson, Dane Mahern, William "Duke" Oliver, and Earl Salisbury. Absent was Monroe Gray, Jr.

PROPOSAL NO. 65, 2007 - reappoints Rick Cockrum to the Board of Parks and Recreation

Mr. Cockrum stated that he has been on the Board of Parks and Recreation for three years and it has been a privilege and an honor to serve in this capacity. He also stated that his undergraduate degree is in Parks management. Mr. Cockrum stated that it will be an honor to be reappointed for another year.

Councillor Mahern stated that Mr. Cockrum has a world of knowledge in this area, not just from the time he spends here in the board meetings but also with the State, and having someone who gives their time and talents is greatly appreciated. Councillor Mahern thanked Mr. Cockrum for all of his hard work.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Gibson arrived at 5:02 p.m.}

Joseph Wynns, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR), stated that Mr. Cockrum is fantastic to work with and that Mr. Cockrum has attended all meetings and is up-to-date with all of the material. Mr. Wynns stated that Mr. Cockrum is a great board member, and it is a privilege to have him serve again.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Salisbury, to send Proposal No. 65, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 92, 2007 - appoints DeVonne L. Richburg-Pollard to the Board of Parks and Recreation

Ms. Pollard stated that she is a resident of the Northside. She stated that she moved to Indianapolis from Washington, D.C. where she worked as a press secretary and Legislative Assistant for Congress. Ms. Pollard said she is currently a member of the Indianapolis Bond Bank Board and a former member of the Old North Side Neighborhood Association. She stated that she looks forward to working with the Parks Board.

Councillor Cockrum asked if Ms. Pollard had submitted to a background check. Ms. Pollard responded in the affirmative. Chair Brown asked the committee clerk if the background check has been approved. The clerk responded in the affirmative.

Mr. Wynns stated that he is glad to have Ms. Pollard on the board and will catch her up to speed. Chair Brown stated that the committee is appreciative to Ms. Pollard for stepping up for community service and is glad to welcome her aboard.

Councillor Cockrum asked if Ms. Pollard can serve on the Bond Bank and the Parks and Recreation Board. Ms. Pollard stated that she was told that it would not be a problem. Councillor Cockrum asked if the committee can find out if it is legal for her to serve on both boards. Chair Brown stated that he will find that information out before it goes to the full Council.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Day, to send Proposal No. 92, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Joe Wynns, Director, Department of Parks and Recreation – Committee Review

Mr. Wynns thanked the committee for the opportunity to serve as director of Parks and Recreation. He stated that Parks has been a part of his life for over 35 years and it is a pleasure to be in a system that is progressive, active and moving well. Mr. Wynns stated that without his staff, DPR would not be where they are. He said that Greenways has been shifted around some since Peggy Boehm left. He said that Don Colvin now serves as the administrator of Resource Development and Greenways. Mr. Wynns stated that DPR has been able to add a new staff person, Karina Straub, who will be the manager of Greenways. He said that DPR is excited to have Karina and the energy she will bring to keep the Greenways going stronger.

{Clerk's Note: Councillor Oliver arrived at 5:09 p.m.}

Mr. Wynns referred to a handout regarding the objective, duties, and members of the Greenways Committee and the Board of Parks and Recreation so that the committee can see exactly what the responsibilities of Greenways and Parks boards are. {Clerk's Note: handout is on file in the Clerk's office.}

Mr. Wynns reviewed in detail some of the commitments that DPR has for 2007. Some of the details were as follows:

2007 Service Commitments

- Host National Recreation and Parks Association Conference in Indianapolis in late September, 2007 and will be host to more than 10,000 delegates across the country
- Break ground for the First Tee program focusing on serving at-risk youth through teaching the sport of golf. Funded 100% through golf revenues.
- Collaborate with the Indianapolis Parks Foundation to break ground on the new Windsor Village Park project

- Develop comprehensive asset and preventive maintenance guidelines to assist in developing the annual capital improvement plan.
- Provide a \$1.2 million match to expand the South White River Greenway
- Appoint Ashley Street, a fitness coordinator, to expand fitness programs and activities to meet the community's growing needs for health, fitness and nutrition resources, and opportunities for all ages.

Mr. Wynns stated that along with the service commitments, DPR is not stopping the basic services. He said that DPR still has to make sure things are safe and well maintained. He stated that DPR has to step up with regard to crime in our community. He said that DPR has to be proactive in figuring out how to keep the recreation centers open in those peak hours when the children can get into trouble. He stated that DPR has to figure out how to get those projects funded, how much the cost will be, if there will be adequate security and supervision.

Councillor Cockrum asked if the Lilly Foundation grant that was given to parks about five years ago is winding up and if DPR will lobby to receive another grant from them. Mr. Wynns answered in the affirmative stating that DPR has been invited to submit, and right now DPR has about two months before the Earth Discovery Center will be open. He said that once DPR walks the Lilly representatives through, the old grant will be closed and Lilly will inform the Mayor when they are ready to accept an application.

Chair Brown stated that he is pleased to hear about DPR wanting to extend the hours of some of the recreation centers and expand some programs. He also said that DPR does a great job and has a wonderful staff. Mr. Wynns stated that DPR is trying to get in front of the problems and that he could not function without the staff's help.

Councillor Oliver asked if the park rangers will play a role in the security of late open recreation centers. Mr. Wynns answered in the affirmative stating that they will have a major role in those late open recreation centers.

PROPOSAL NO. 66, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$28,238 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks General Fund) to support after school activities at Charity Dye School 27, financed by a grant from the United Way of Central Indiana

Jason Gabehart, Grants Manager, DPR stated that United Way funded Indianapolis Parks Foundation in 2006 to support after school programming at Charity Dye School 27. He said that the grant will support tutoring, violence prevention, drug prevention programming and recreational programming.

Councillor Cockrum asked if these funds were carried over from last year and is being reappropriated this year. Mr. Gabehart stated that it is partially carried over. He said that the total grant was for \$40,000 and DPR appropriated \$20,000 in 2006 and they still have \$8,238 of that previous \$20,000 left; therefore, the \$8,238 and the remaining

\$20,000 of the original grant leaves a total of \$28,238. Councillor Cockrum asked if these were matching funds. Mr. Gabehart answered in the negative.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Salisbury, to send Proposal No. 66, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSAL NO. 67, 2007 - approves an appropriation of \$48,682 in the 2007 Budget of the Department of Parks and Recreation (Parks General Fund) to fund salary, benefits and supplies for a School Community Development Manager for two schools in the Martindale-Brightwood Neighborhood: Hazel Hart Hendricks School 37 and James Russell Lowell School 51, financed by a grant from the Annie E. Casey Foundation

Councillor Mahern moved, seconded by Councillor Gibson, to "Amend" Proposal No. 67, 2007 as described in Exhibit A.

Councillor Cockrum asked if all of the Full Time Employees (FTEs) are related to the above grant. Jeff Seidenstein, Budget Manager, Office of Finance and Management (OFM) answered in the affirmative stating that these funds being appropriated are to hire one FTE. He said that when the ordinance for 2007 was approved by the Council, OFM did not realize at the time that the FTEs listed were for 2006 instead of 2007. Mr. Seidenstein stated that OFM intended to have an increase of .9 FTEs (less than one full time position) and it was basically a couple of part time positions added. He said that this ordinance is adding that .9 plus the one full time FTE as part of the ordinance. He stated that when OFM originally introduced the ordinance, all of the full time positions lumped together and now OFM is showing it broken down between the bi-weekly and union positions so it is consistent with how the other departments are listed.

Councillor Mahern's motion to "Amend" Proposal No. 67, 2007, carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Gabehart stated that the community school development manager will be in charge of collaborating between parents, community organizations, profit and non-for-profit organizations with a focus of creating student success in the two schools listed in the proposal.

Chair Brown asked if this was started last year. Mr. Gabehart answered in the affirmative. Councillor Cockrum asked if these were matching funds or grant money. Mr. Gabehart stated that it was all grant money.

Councillor Oliver asked to have this grant explained. Mr. Gabehart stated that the purpose of the manager is to collaborate with those in the community to focus on student success outside the classroom. He said that the manager will be able to link parents with faculty members, and solicit funds to impact educational needs of the school. Mr. Wynns stated that the manager will be out identifying resources to bring into

the schools and to make sure both schools have the adequate after school supplies and needs.

Councillor Gibson moved, seconded by Councillor Mahern, to send Proposal No. 67, 2007 to the full Council with a "Do Pass as Amended" recommendation. This motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Old Business

Chair Brown stated that Ms. Pollard is taking the place of Emily Nichols-Mitchell, who resigned. He stated that Ms. Nichols-Mitchell served on the Board of Parks and Recreation and on behalf of the Parks committee, thanks her for a job well done.

New Business

Councillor Mahern wanted to let everyone know that his father, Ed Mahern, had a difficult surgery and is doing very well. Councillor Mahern wanted to thank the community for their thoughts and prayers.

Mr. Seidenstein introduced new staff members of OFM. Catherine Parker will be the new grants director for the City and County. Hope Tribble is replacing Kim Diller as budget manager.

With no further business pending, and upon motion duly made, the Parks and Recreation Committee of the City-County Council was adjourned at 5:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Vernon Brown, Chair
Parks and Recreation Committee

VB/law